



**Wyoming
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**King Nut Peanut Butter “Likely Source” of Salmonella
Outbreak Across the Nation**

CHEYENNE (January 14, 2009) - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday that peanut butter is the "likely source" of the salmonella infection that has struck more than 400 people nationally including two in Wyoming.

The salmonella infection has struck 410 people in 43 states and may have contributed to three deaths. The Minnesota Department of Health said Monday that the salmonella found in a 5-pound tub of peanut butter that infected nursing home residents there was found by genetic testing to be the national outbreak strain.

The federal agency did not give more details about the deaths and is awaiting the results of more tests before making a definitive ruling. The illnesses began on Sept. 15, and 18% of victims have been hospitalized.

The spread was produced by Peanut Corporation of America, based in Lynchburg, Va., and is distributed nationally by Ohio-based King Nut Companies. It is sold only to institutions such as schools, hospitals and long-term-care facilities. The product was not distributed for retail sale to customers.

“While the peanut butter was not distributed in Wyoming, it is still possible that citizens may have come in contact with the tainted product,” said Dean Finkenbinder, Wyoming Department of Agriculture Consumer Health Services Manager. “The product was distributed to surrounding states and everyone should be aware of the recall and if you start experiencing symptoms, see a local health provider.”

Salmonella causes cramping, diarrhea and fever. It is the greatest threat to the very young, very old and people with compromised immune systems. CDC officials say the bacteria in the current outbreak has been genetically fingerprinted as the Typhimurium type, which is among the most common sources of salmonella food poisoning.

The CDC says King Nut is the only brand of peanut butter used in the stricken institutions and King Nut Companies has voluntarily withdrawn the product from distribution. King Nut's president, Martin Kanan, said Sunday that the recall involved about 1,000 cases of peanut butter and they canceled all orders with the manufacturer of the tainted peanut-butter, Peanut Corporation of America based in Lynchburg, Va.

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